The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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All great alterations in human affairs are produced by compromise.—Sydney Smith.

WHOLE NO. 1307 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1936 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 26, NO. 18

EDITORIALS

ADVANTAGES OF HIGH WAGES AND SHORT HOURS

With leading manufacturers in the United States persistently advocating the reactionary policy of lengthening hours and opposing higher wages, in some instances even enforcing wage reductions, it is encouraging to learn that certain progressive British manufacturers take exactly the opposite view and hold that in connection with the introduction of labor-displacing machinery and methods there should be a continual shortening of the work week and a continual increase in the remuneration of the workers, who, in point of fact, do most of the useful labor in production and distribution.

An illustration of this commendable position is the strong advocacy of higher wages and a shorter work week which featured a recent speech in London by Colonel A. C. Davis, chairman of the Council of the London Chamber of Commerce and works managing director of Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers, Ltd.

Speaking under the auspices of the Industrial Co-Partnership Association, he stressed the point that some industrialists feared high wages as a menace to industry and accepted the illogical theory that there must be a supply of labor at what they called an "economic wage," meaning a low wage.

In denying the validity of this theory Colonel Davis said "low wages are not economic in this age of mechanization," adding:

"High wages go with the rationalization and efficiency of industry; and high wages with elimination of wasteful methods lead to good demand, which is generally the short cut to industrial recovery."

Emphasizing his position that "high wages increase the buying power of the people," and that usually shorter working hours under machine production increased out, "thus making it possible for every class of the community to share in the resulting prosperity," Colonel Davis said that if industrialists would put their house in order, they would at once eliminate suicidal competition and restricted markets, avoid wasteful and obsolete methods of production, and insure that the conditions of the workers were improved as a consequence.

The coal industry of Great Britain was mentioned by Colonel Davis as an example of those industries which even today were a standing reproach to British industry and a serious reflection on the brains of British business.

He said everyone agreed that the miner was equitably entitled to a good wage, but he declared that to insure this it should not be necessary to raise prices. The owners, he insisted, must adjust themselves to the present conditions of industry. If they would do this it would be possible to raise the wages of coal miners without forcing consumers to pay higher prices.

LOW-WAGE HOUSING

The determination of a considerable number of employers both in and out of the building industry to continue their campaign to impose indecently low wages on large groups of workers was emphasized by Peter Grimm, New York business man and formerly a special assistant to Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau to analyze and coordinate Federal housing programs, in testifying before the Senate Committee on Education and Labor during the hearings on the Wagner Low-Cost Housing and Slum-Clearance Bill, which authorizes the expenditure of nearly a billion dollars to provide adequate housing for families of low income.

To administer the housing program the measure establishes the "United States Housing Authority."

The section of the Wagner Bill devoted to labor standards provides that the prevailing rate of wages for laborers and mechanics "shall apply to contracts in connection with the development or administration of low-rent housing or slum-clearance projects owned by the Authority and the furnishing of materials and labor for such projects."

The section also contains the following provision extending the scope of the prevailing wage rate:

"Any contract for a loan, grant, annual contribution, sale, lease, or administration with a housing agency shall contain a provision requiring that the wages prevailing in the locality, as determined by the Authority, shall be paid to all laborers and mechanics employed in the development or administration of the low-rent housing or slum-clearance project involved."

Mr. Grimm opposed these protective provisions on the ground that they would increase building costs. Such a position is reactionary in the extreme. The prevailing rate of wages is not high enough anywhere in the United States to land the workers in the lap of luxury. The Government should not be a party to a housing construction program patterned on the policy of anti-social employers who believe that prosperity consists in having Federal funds for housing purposes used for the benefit of wage chiselers.

The prevailing wage provisions of the Wagner Bill are sound, patriotic and essentially American. They will undoubtedly remain in the bill regardless of the moaning protests of low-wage employers typified by Mr. Grimm.

LABOR'S CONTROL OF NEW ZEALAND

The first session of the New Zealand Parliament under control of the organized workers, following labor's victory in the parliamentary elections, has made a vigorous beginning toward carrying out labor's campaign pledges to scrap the subversive policy of the former Tory government and stimulate recovery by improving the economic conditions of the New Zealand masses.

One of the first measures introduced in Parliament by the Labor Cabinet of Prime Minister Walter Savage was a sweeping bill affecting the hours, wages and working conditions of New Zealand toilers.

The measure requires the Arbitration Court to fix basic wages for both men and women workers in all industries covered by industrial agreements on a basis that must provide a reasonable standard of comfort for a family consisting of a man with a wife and two children and establishes the 40-hour week for all industries except where the court regards this as impracticable. Parties to existing agreements are given the right to apply for a reduction of their hours to 40 weekly. With regard to workers who do not come within the jurisdiction of the arbitration court, special measures will be provided to standardize their wages and hours according to the plan provided for other workers. Saturday work will be eliminated wherever possible.

Abolishing the former anti-labor government's policy of victimizing unemployed workers on relief with substandard wages and part-time work, the bill provides that all awards and agreements shall be applicable to relief workers, which gives them full-time employment at standard rates.

The measure also provides for preference for union members in filling jobs, with a definite provision which makes impossible the registration of bogus unions set up to defeat bona fide labor organizations. The government has already applied this union preference rule in connection with public works by issuing an order that every employe on a public works job must be a member of the New Zealand Workers' Union, with authority given the union to police all jobs in order to see that the men get a square deal.

In accordance with the policy of the New Zealand organized workers, the government has re-established the principle of compulsory arbitration abolished by the recent anti-labor government, with the stipulation that all disputes on which no agreement is reached by the Conciliation Council will be referred automatically to the Arbitration Court for final decision.

The labor government has also introduced a bill making the administration of the State Railway System a direct government responsibility, thus abolishing the Railways Board.

The New Zealand Labor Parliament was democratically elected by the voters with a mandate to secure for New Zealand workers and the people generally those inherent rights so long denied them by the anti-labor employer interests whose plan, enforced by their control of the government, has been maximum profits for those who own and operate industry regardless of the injustice imposed by this subversive policy upon the working industrial and agricultural masses of New Zealand. Working men and women in other countries will watch with interest the policies adopted by the New Zealand Government, under direction of the Parliament, to carry out the mandate.

TORTURING THE UNEMPLOYED

Subjecting the destitute unemployed and their families to the torture that inevitably results from uncertainty regarding relief is a regrettable policy followed by more than one State. This form of cruelty imposed by State authorities is illustrated by the condition in Illinois where legislative controversies over the relief problem have brought the unspeakable suffering that comes from the fear of want to over 500,000 unemployed.

The Illinois Legislature recently legislated out of existence the State Emergency Relief Commission set up in 1932 to distribute relief funds. During March the Commission allocated relief to 541,292 persons at a total cost of $4,793,545, a portion of which came from the State sales tax and another portion from an emergency appropriation made in February.

A controversy developed in the Legislature as to whether unemployment relief shall be administered by local authorities or by a central State authority. Pending this dispute the tenure of office of the State Relief Commission approached its end with no adequate provisions either for raising or administering the funds required to provide food and other necessaries for over 500,000 destitute jobless.

The torture of uncertainty regarding their livelihood imposed on the unemployed and their families is not only unnecessary but absolutely inhuman. The workers are unemployed through no fault of their own. Their involuntary membership in the jobless army imposes untold distress upon them. Governments should not add to their suffering by torturing them with continued suspense regarding the modest relief funds necessary to sustain life.

FRAME-UP AGAINST SEAMEN'S UNION OFFICIAL IS EXPOSED

San Francisco Judge Throws Out of Court Charge That Ivan Hunter Sponsored Plot to Murder Coast Marine Firemen's Secretary.

San Francisco, Calif. (AFLNS).—After an exhaustive hearing, Municipal Judge Daniel S. O'Brien completely exonerated Ivan Hunter, secretary-treasurer of the International Seamen's Union of America, of the charge that he had offered one W. J. Neill $500 to kill Earl King, secretary-treasurer of the Pacific Coast Marine Firemen's Union, or have him killed. The case was such a palpable frame-up that Judge O'Brien threw it out of court.

Following the action of Judge O'Brien the matter was taken up by the San Francisco grand jury. After examining various witnesses, the grand jury returned indictments against three men alleged to have been involved in the plot to frame Hunter. Two of the men were indicted on a charge of criminal libel based on a telegram which it was alleged was sent to Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, in Washington, accusing Hunter of the spurious murder plot. The third indictment named Neill on two counts of perjury in connection with an affidavit which it was claimed he signed charging that Hunter had offered him $500 for his part in the alleged plot against King.

LABOR BOARD ENJOINED

Milwaukee, Wis. (AFLNS).—Federal Judge F. A. Geiger issued a temporary injunction here restraining the National Labor Relations Board from holding a hearing on the complaint of the Milwaukee Newspaper Guild charging the publishers of the Wisconsin News with violating the Wagner-Connery Labor Relations Act.

OVER 12 MILLION ARE UNEMPLOYED

Green Declares Many Jobs Have Been Lost by Lengthening Hours Since Abolition of Recovery Act by the Supreme Court's Edict Holding It Unconstitutional.

Visions 6,000,000 Permanently Jobless Unless Some Plan Is Devised to Put Them to Work "Producing the Goods They Need For a Decent Living."

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Using reliable figures to show that industry is not only failing to register gains in re-employing the jobless but has actually destroyed over a million possible jobs by lengthening hours since the extinction of the National Industrial Recovery Act, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, in his current statement on the unemployment situation, said that the jobless army in the United States now totals 12,184,000, with re-employment continuing to fall behind business recovery.

Unless some effective employment plan is devised, Mr. Green predicted that even when business reaches levels above normal there will be in the neighborhood of 6,000,000 able-bodied working men and women permanently unemployed.

The text of Mr. Green's statement follows:

"The Federation unemployment estimate shows 12,184,000 without normal work in industry in March, 1936. Seasonal gains in business and agriculture from January to March this year gave jobs to 559,000, which is about the normal increase in work at this season. Little or no progress in re-employment has been made during the first quarter of 1936.

"Trade union figures for the first part of April show the same employment gain as last year, but the union record of re-employment in the first four months is slightly less than that of 1935. In 1935, 2.3 per cent of the membership found jobs between January and April; in 1936 only 1.7 per cent. The weighted figures show the following percentage of union membership unemployed: March, 1936, 15.5; February, 1936, 16.2; March, 1935, 19.4.

Work Week Is Lengthened

"Our failure, thus far in 1936, to make any permanent progress in putting the unemployed to work has been due at least in part to lengthening of work hours. As seasonal production increases required more work time, employers in many cases lengthened hours of work instead of adding to their work force. The average work week has increased since January. More than a million possible jobs have been eliminated by lengthening work hours since the termination of NRA.

"The present slow rate of re-employment is a matter for serious concern to all interested in our national welfare. Recent calculations made by the American Federation of Labor show that in recovery from depression re-employment is by no means keeping pace with gains in business. Business has already traveled nearly three-quarters (72 per cent) of the distance upward from depression bottom to normal, but less than half (46 per cent) of those laid off in depression have gone back to work in industry. In other words, we are falling short by 2,850,000 jobs of restoring the employment lost during depression. Most of this re-employment shortage has occurred since NRA.

"When business reached its lowest depression point in March, 1933, 11,342,000 of those who had jobs in 1929 had been laid off, and business had fallen 42 per cent below normal, according to the Annalist Index. With 72 per cent of the business loss regained, we should have found work for 72 per cent of the depression unemployed if we expect to restore employment by the time business again reaches normal. That is, we should have re-employed 8,120,000; actually we have re-employed only 5,270,000. These figures are given in an article to appear in the American Federationist for May.

Millions of Young People Are Jobless

"The re-employment shortage of 2,850,000 jobs is only part of the story. For, of the young persons who have come of working age since depression, nearly four and a half million (4,246,000) are seeking jobs. **This means that even when business again reaches normal we may expect a job shortage of more than 7,000,000, in addition to the 1,864,000 who were without jobs in 1929.**

"We are now depending on the Federal Government for 3,878,000 jobs in PWA, WPA, etc., and in addition relief agencies are caring for about 1,890,000 cases (February, 1936).

"With re-employment steadily falling behind business recovery, we know that we can not count on industry, without control, to put the unemployed to work. Even if business reaches a level considerably above normal we must count on a permanent job shortage of at least 6,000,000 or we must find a way to put these millions to work producing the goods they need for a decent living.

"America can not dodge this problem. Business men in the past have allowed the Government to deal with it by giving work relief at relief wages. If this policy is continued with refusal to face the problem, it will be well to remember that millions of American citizens will not indefinitely submit to enforced poverty and public support in an age when industry is equipped to supply them with a comfort level of living."

POLICE ATTACK CELERY WORKERS WITH TEAR GAS

Culver City, Calif. (AFLNS).—About 300 striking celery workers in the celery fields near here were attacked by police using tear gas bombs in an attempt to disperse the strikers. The clash took place when a number of the strikers arrived at the celery fields to persuade non-striking workers to join them. Most of the strikers were Mexicans and Filipinos. The operators of the celery fields are Japanese. When the police unlimbered their tear gas bombs the strikers responded with sticks, clods and celery crates. The casualties on both sides were numerous.

ARBITRATION IS SET UP BY DOCK WORKERS' PACT

San Francisco Longshoremen's Union And Waterfront Employers Agree To Obey Rulings of Judge Sloss.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

San Francisco, Calif.—San Francisco longshoremen returned to work under a contract which assures them the full benefit of the National Longshoremen's Board Award of two years ago and protects the employers from so-called "job action" or "hot cargo" disputes.

The controversy culminated when the longshoremen refused to handle the cargo of the steamship Santa Rosa. The Employers' Association issued an edict refusing to continue its recognition of the Longshoremen's Union and undertook to establish the policy of individual bargaining. The dispute tied up the San Francisco waterfront and affected shipping at every Pacific Coast port.

The decision followed a public session during which all parties laid their cases before Judge M. C. Sloss, Federal arbitrator.

The agreement was signed by officers of the San Francisco local and Pacific Coast District No. 38 of the International Longshoremen's Association and by officials of the Waterfront Employers' Association.

Judge Sloss laid down a number of conditions upon which he would again take up his duties of arbitrator. He insisted that both parties to the dispute should resume relations "with the purpose and intent of living up to the terms of the award" made by the National Longshoremen's Board, "including the provisions for arbitration, in all respects and in good faith."

In this connection Judge Sloss declared that both the longshoremen and the waterfront employers had failed to comply with awards of the arbitrator during recent months.

"The employers," he said, "were at fault in failing, until after a considerable delay, to observe the award made with reference to restrospective pay.

"On the other hand, the I. L. A., and its members acting collectively, have consistently disregarded the awards of the arbitrator on two important questions:

"The ruling that the union, or its members acting collectively, have not the right to refuse to do work, or to stop work, because of any dispute regarding conditions, but that it is their duty to continue to do the work, as directed, pending the settlement of the controversy in the orderly method provided by the award of the National Longshoremen's Board, i. e., through the Labor Relations Committee or through arbitration. This presents the issue of 'job action,' a procedure which is inconsistent with the carrying out of the award.

"The refusal to handle 'hot' cargo, i. e., cargo affected by some controversy involving labor disputes outside the scope of the award of the National Longshoremen's Board. The rulings of the arbitrator on this question have not been accepted and the union and its members have maintained their position that they will not handle such cargo so long as it remains under the ban imposed by other labor organizations."

Judge Sloss added that in resuming his functions as arbitrator it was understood that he would continue in that position only so long as all parties cooperate in presenting to him all controversies properly submitted for arbitration and only so long as every award made by him was promptly accepted and obeyed.

"If these conditions are not met," he added, "I have no course open other than to retire as arbitrator, giving public notice of the reason for such action."

PACT DRAFTED TO END COAST SEAMEN'S STRIKE

Agreement Drawn By Justice Black In New York Provides Referendum On Wage Dispute.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York, N. Y.—An agreement to end the current outlaw strike of Atlantic Coast seamen and open the way for the return of the men to the ships was reached here by representatives of the International Seamen's Union and spokesmen for the strikers' committee.

Supreme Court Justice William Harmon Black drafted the terms after an all-day conference with the two groups. The agreement, which is subject to the approval of both the executive board of the union and the striking members, developed from an injunction suit brought by the union officials to restrain the strike committee from certain of its activities, including the false claim that it represented the union, inducing union members to quit employment and threatening to tie up all shipping on the Atlantic seacoast unless a wage agreement made by union officials in March with 36 steamship lines was repudiated.

The main provision of the pact drawn by Justice Black is that the wage agreement which caused the controversy shall be submitted to a referendum vote of the union membership during the next 45 days. The agreement omitted overtime payment for Atlantic Coast sailors, stewards and engineers and gave the stewards only $45 a month as against $50 in the agreement covering Pacific Coast seamen.

The Black pact also stipulates that no disciplinary action will be taken against any of the strikers and that expelled members shall be reinstated. Union officials promised aid in putting back to work men who had been discharged or blacklisted for strike activities. Officials of some shipping lines have said they would not re-employ the men who struck on the Pacific Coast liner California last month, claiming their action violated the contract with the Seamen's Union.

Railway Mergers Are Scored By St. Louis Rail Workers

St. Louis, Mo. (AFLNS).—Speakers at a meeting of more than 1,000 railroad employes here denounced in strong terms the proposed consolidation of railroad facilities in St. Louis outlined a number of months ago by Joseph B. Eastman, Federal Coordinator of Transportation.

A. J. Pickett, general chairman of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, estimated that 5,000 of the 30,000 railroad employes in the St. Louis area would lose their jobs if the consolidation plan were carried into effect. Pickett said that because of the large decrease in purchasing power resulting from so many workers losing their jobs general business would also be the loser.

Mexico Condemned For Exiling Morones

American Sense of Justice and Fair Play Is Shocked, Green Says—Fears Mexican Federation of Labor May Be Destroyed By Government Tyranny.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—A strong criticism of the recent action of the Mexican Government in expelling Luis N. Morones, vice president of the Pan-American Federation of Labor and executive head of the Mexican Federation of Labor, and jailing a number of other labor leaders, was issued here by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor after a conference with Morones held at the A. F. of L. headquarters.

Mr. Green's statement said in part:

"Brother Morones was expelled from Mexico and driven into exile. He was not accorded a trial by a jury of his peers nor was he permitted to face his accusers. Former President Calles and a number of others were forcibly driven out of Mexico with him. In addition 39 leaders of the Mexican Federation of Labor are in prison in Mexico, not because they have committed crimes against the Government but simply because they are known to be labor leaders. All of this is shocking to the sense of justice and fair play so universally held by the officers and members of organized labor in the United States.

Friendship for Mexican Workers

"The American Federation of Labor recognizes the right of the people of the Republic of Mexico to administer their own affairs free from interference on the part of any other nation. We recognize the right of the people of all countries to ordain and order their political and social affairs in such a way as may suit their needs.

"We, the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor, have constantly sought to cultivate, establish and maintain the most friendly relations with the people and the Government of Mexico. For more than a quarter of a century we have extended a full measure of support to the working people of Mexico in all the efforts they have put forth to win for themselves the exercise of the right of liberty and freedom. This traditional friendship for the people of Mexico was clearly demonstrated when, in the long struggle against the tyranny of Dictator Porfirio Diaz, we gave to the Mexican people all assistance and support possible.

Mexican Labor Federation Persecuted

"It was made clear to me, through the report submitted by Brother Morones, that the Mexican Federation of Labor is making a heroic fight for preservation of its existence and the principles which it has espoused. It seems inconceivable that the Mexican Government would direct a destructive attack upon this organization which forms such an important part in its institutional life.

"The American Federation of Labor views with a feeling of deep concern and grave apprehension the apparent determination of those in charge of the administration of the Government of Mexico to wipe out the Mexican Federation of Labor and drive its leaders into exile.

"Without appearing to interfere in the internal affairs of Mexico, we feel justified in offering a vigorous protest against such action. We are doing this because we wish to see real genuine liberty and democracy preserved in Mexico for the enjoyment of its working people and because, through our close association with the Mexican Federation of Labor through membership in the Pan-American Federation of Labor, we are concerned in its welfare and well-being.

"We sincerely hope that governmental authorities in Mexico will change their attitude, withdraw their policy of persecution of the Mexican Federation of Labor and its officers, and make real and vital the principles of freedom, liberty and democracy within the Republic of Mexico. We will feel both relieved and gratified if we are privileged to learn that a return to a regard for the rights of labor has come to Mexico. We hope that may be soon.

Tyrannical Acts of Government

"A long list of detailed accounts of persecution and aggresion against the rights of labor which I regard as most serious has been laid before me; among these, the censorship of the press, the denial of meeting places for the use of the unions associated with the Mexican Federation of Labor, defiance of the conciliation and mediation machinery set up by law, and of the labor courts, for the purpose of outlawing the Mexican Federation of Labor and the local organizations affiliated with it. These acts were climaxed by the forcible arrest and expulsion of Brother Morones, chief officer of the Mexican Federation of Labor and an honored officer of the Pan-American Federation of Labor.

"The officers and members of the American Federation of Labor will maintain the traditional policy which it has always pursued in relation to the internal affairs and the self-governing rights of Mexico. We covet that the Mexican Republic shall, because of its adherence to the principles of righteousness and justice, win for itself the respect and decent opinion of mankind. We would be false to the highest and best tradition of the American Federation of Labor, however, if we failed in this great emergency to protest against unjust and indefensible treatment accorded our fellow workers in the Republic of Mexico."

St. Louis Filling Station Employes Ask 48-Hour Week

St. Louis, Mo. (AFLNS).—Picketing of three filling stations operated by James O. Sampson was inaugurated by members of the Gasoline Service Warehouse Employes' Union here as a persuasive measure in their demand for a working week of six eight-hour days with wages ranging from $95 to $110 a month.

Union officials said that they had been working between eight and nine hours a day and seven days a week. Sampson not only refused to sign an agreement with the union but discharged seven employes at two stations. He said acceptance of the union's demand would require the hiring of additional attendants, and he just couldn't stand the expense.

(Reprinted from April 27 Issue of A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Supplement.)

A. F. of L. Stresses Importance Of Non-Partisan Political Policy

Green and Morrison Emphasize Necessity For United Action By Workers To Elect Candidates Who Favor Legislation Approved By Labor and Defeat Candidates Who Oppose Such Legislation.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—In the 1936 campaign the American Federation of Labor will continue its policy of supporting candidates for office, regardless of their political affiliations, who favor legislation approved by labor and opposing the enemies of such legislation. This was made definite and clear in a letter regarding the non-partisan political policy of the A. F. of L. sent by President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer Frank Morrison to 109 national and international unions, 48 state federations of labor, 800 city central bodies and 35,000 local unions.

The text of the letter follows:

"In conformity with instructions of conventions of the American Federation of Labor, decisions of the Executive Council and customary procedure, the non-partisan political policy which will be followed by the American Federation of Labor in the political campaign of 1936 will be transmitted and explained to you in due course of time and at the earliest possible date.

"The preponderance of opinion of the membership of the American Federation of Labor in favor of the pursuit of a non-partisan political policy has been expressed in a most definite way in conventions of the American Federation of Labor. They have repeatedly emphasized their opinion and belief that the political and economic interests of the working people of the country can best be served, for the present at least, through the pursuit of a non-partisan political policy.

Importance of Labor Unity

"By following this course, the American Federation of Labor has succeeded in its efforts to blend into a common brotherhood and unite in a strong economic organization men and women of differing political opinions and beliefs. In a most practical and convincing way the workers, regardless of political opinions, have united in behalf of candidates for office who supported legislation sponsored and approved by labor, and conversely have opposed and defeated candidates for office who were known to be opposed to labor and to legislation favored by labor.

"It is the desire of the American Federation of Labor that the workers who accept and espouse the political and economic philosophy of the American Federation of Labor shall remain united both in its administration and activity. The cause of labor can be best served through united action made possible through the development of a sound constructive practical non-partisan political policy.

"For obvious reasons, labor should avoid division even in the pursuit of its political policies. Such division can be avoided if working men and women, loyal to the American Federation of Labor, will refrain from identifying themselves with any political movement designed to serve as a substitute for the non-partisan political policy of the American Federation of Labor.

Information Regarding Candidates

"When the occasion seems appropriate, when candidates have been nominated, when it becomes publicly known who the candidates are, upon what platform they stand and what social, economic and political principles they espouse, the Executive Council, through its non-partisan political committee, will officially communicate with all organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor advising them regarding the standing, qualifications and public records of candidates for political positions.

"The training and experience of labor and the lessons which it has learned, all lead to the conclusion that the highest and best interests of labor will be served through a strict and close adherence to the traditional non-partisan political policy of the American Federation of Labor."

Labor Board Says Indiana Publisher Tried to Smash Pressmen's Union

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The decision of the National Labor Relations Board ordering Edward E. Cox, Printer, Inc., publisher of the Hartford City News, Hartford City, Ind., to cease and desist from refusing to bargain collectively with Local No. 376 of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union contains instructive revelations concerning the intransigent tactics which anti-union employers all too frequently use in trying to impose reactionary policies on their employes.

In addition to printing and publishing the Hartford City News, which is a daily paper, the company also makes and distributes glassine and grease-proof wrappers, of which 1,250,000 pounds were printed during the last year, 90 per cent being shipped out of Indiana.

The decision points out that in July, 1935, 18 union members employed by the company authorized Local 376 to represent them in labor disputes that might occur in the plant. The firm ignored a communication containing the information that its employes had chosen the union as their collective bargaining agent and requesting a conference. During the next few weeks officials of the union made futile efforts to persuade Jack Dolan and Edward E. Cox, Jr., president and treasurer of the company, to bargain collectively. Dolan is alleged to have said "he was not interested in recognizing the union, nor did he want to deal with them or even the committee representing the employes."

While these fruitless negotiations were in progress a commissioner of conciliation of the United States Department of Labor vainly attempted to persuade the company to take a more reasonable position.

According to the Labor Board, the company not only refused to recognize the union as the representative of the employes of the pressroom, but "it also attempted to smash the union." The smashing method was inaugurated when Jack Dolan, president of the company, called Elwood W. Farr, secretary-treasurer of the union and a member of the union scale committee, into his office and suggested that Farr talk to the union members individually and ask them to resign from the union. The members refused to resign and voted overwhelmingly to continue their union activities. When this action was reported to Dolan he declared that it would be "a case of dog eat dog" from then on.

In addition to ordering the company to cease and desist from refusing to bargain collectively with Local No. 376, the Labor Board ordered the company upon request of the union to bargain with it as the exclusive representative of the printing pressmen and their assistants employed by the company.

LABOR BOARD STAYS OUT OF JURISDICTION DISPUTE

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—The National Labor Relations Board announced that it would not undertake to settle disputes between trade unions regarding jurisdiction. The announcement was made in a decision involving machine fixers employed by the Axton-Fisher Tobacco Company and the Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation of Louisville, Ky. Jurisdiction over these workers was claimed by the Tobacco Workers' International Union and the International Association of Machinists.

The National Labor Relations Act authorizes the Labor Board to determine, under certain conditions, what group of workers constitutes a "unit appropriate for the purposes of collective bargaining."

In the jurisdiction controversy regarding machine fixers employed by the two tobacco companies, the Board stated the question as follows: "The Machinists' Union claims that machinists proper and the machine fixers constitute together a 'unit appropriate for the purposes of collective bargaining' in the terminology of Section 9(b) of the Labor Relations Act. The Tobacco Workers' Union contends that the tobacco workers and machine fixers belong together and as such constitute an appropriate unit, as do the machinists alone."

As the basis for its ruling the Board cited its decision in the Aluminum Company of America case in which the principal question was whether the local officers or the officials of the American Federation of Labor should represent a Federal labor union in its dealings with the employer. In that case the Board decided that "such a question, involving solely and in a peculiar fashion the internal affairs of the American Federation of Labor and its chartered bodies, can best be decided by the parties themselves," and said, "it is preferable that the Board should not interfere with the internal affairs of labor organizations."

Declaring that its decision in the Aluminum Company case is fully applicable to the controversy between the International Association of Machinists and the Tobacco Workers' International Union the Board continued:

"Both of the labor organizations involved in the instant cases are affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and possess charters from that body. In view of the structure of that body the instant controversy is simply a dispute involving the internal affairs of a labor organization, here the American Federation of Labor. That dispute resembles the hundreds of other jurisdictional questions handled by the Federation and is clearly of a type which it has power to decide. There thus exists a body to which these two organizations belong and which has the authority to rend a binding decision on the dispute between them. Under such circumstances the Board is of the opinion that it should not intervene in the dispute for the reason stated in the Aluminum Company case."

ASSOCIATED PRESS HELD VIOLATOR OF WAGNER ACT

New York, N. Y. (AFLNS).—The Associated Press engaged in unfair labor practices prohibited by the Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Act when it discharged Morris Watson, a member of the American Newspaper Guild, according to the intermediate report made by Dean Charles S. Clarke, of Yale Law School, trial examiner for the National Labor Relations Board in the Guild's complaint charging that Watson had been illegally dismissed.

Dean Clarke found that the sole reason for the discharge of Mr. Watson, a reporter for the Associated Press, on October 18, 1935, was that he "joined and assisted a labor organization known as the American Newspaper Guild through its Associated Press unit, and engaged in concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining and other mutual aid and protection."

He decided that by "the discharge and refusal to employ said Morris Watson" the Associated Press "has interfered with, restrained and coerced its employes in the exercise of the rights guaranteed in Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act."

Dean Clarke recommended that the Associated Press "cease and desist" from "interfering" with efforts of its employes to bargain collectively and to "desist" from "refusing to bargain collectively with the American Newspaper Guild, the representatives of its editorial employes, and discouraging membership in any labor organization by discrimination in regard to hire or terms of employment and by the discharge and refusal to re-employ Morris Watson."

The Associated Press was also ordered to reinstate Watson as an editorial employe at his former salary of $295 a month, repay him all losses of salary since his dismissal and "bargain collectively with its editorial employes through the American Newspaper Guild and its National Executive Board, duly chosen representative of the Associated Press of such Guild."